AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 13, 18, 34, 35 and 39, cancel claims 12, 17, 33, and 37, and add claims 40-43 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated neural stem cell (NSC), which is isolated by a method, comprising selecting said NSC ~~the stem cell~~ based on said NSC ~~the stem cell~~ exhibiting a CXCR4 receptor, demonstrating an affinity for the chemokine SDF-1, or both.

2. (Original) The isolated stem cell of claim 1, wherein said isolated stem cell exhibits markers characteristic of a precursor for astrocytic differentiated stem cells.

3. (Original) The isolated stem cell of claim 2, wherein said isolated stem cell exhibits an A2B5 astrocytic precursor marker.

4. (Withdrawn) The isolated stem cell of claim 2, wherein said isolated stem cell exhibits a glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) astrocytic precursor marker.

5. (Original) The isolated stem cell of claim 1, wherein said isolated stem cell comprises a heterologous gene.

6. (Original) The isolated stem cell of claim 5, wherein said heterologous gene encodes a polypeptide of therapeutic use in the treatment of a disease condition.

7. (Original) The isolated stem cell of claim 6, wherein said polypeptide is cytotoxic.

8. (Original) The isolated stem cell of claim 6, wherein said polypeptide is involved in an immune response.

9. (Original) The isolated stem cell of claim 8, wherein said polypeptide is IL-12.

10. (Withdrawn) The isolated stem cell of claim 8, wherein said polypeptide is IL-4.

11. (Withdrawn) The isolated stem cell of claim 8, wherein said polypeptide is tumor necrosis factor-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL).

12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for assessing tumor tropic potential of a stem cell, comprising:

providing a neural stem cell (NSC);

determining an expression level of CXCR4 by said NSC ~~stem cell~~, an affinity by said NSC ~~the stem cell~~ for the chemokine SDF-1, or both; and

assessing tumor tropic potential of said NSC ~~the stem cell~~ based upon said expression level of CXCR4, said affinity for the chemokine SDF-1, or both, wherein an expression of CXCR4, an affinity for the chemokine SDF-1, or both indicates said NSC having tumor tropic potential.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said stem cell exhibits markers characteristic of a precursor for astrocytic differentiated stem cells.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein said stem cell exhibits an A2B5 astrocytic precursor marker.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein said stem cell exhibits a glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) astrocytic precursor marker.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for treating a disease condition in a mammal, comprising:

providing a neural stem cell (NSC) that exhibits a CXCR4 receptor, that demonstrates an affinity for the chemokine SDF-1, or both; and

administering said NSC ~~stem cell~~ to said mammal in an amount sufficient to treat said disease condition.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said stem cell is an astrocytic progenitor cell.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said stem cell exhibits markers characteristic of a precursor for astrocytic differentiated stem cells.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said stem cell exhibits an A2B5 astrocytic precursor marker.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said stem cell exhibits a glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) astrocytic precursor marker.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said stem cell comprises a heterologous gene.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein said heterologous gene encodes a polypeptide of therapeutic use in the treatment of said disease condition.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein said polypeptide is cytotoxic.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein said polypeptide is involved in an immune response.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said polypeptide is IL-12.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said polypeptide is IL-4.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said polypeptide is tumor necrosis factor related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL).

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the disease condition is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, colon cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, hepatocellular cancer, gastric cancer, pancreatic cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, liver cancer, bladder cancer, cancer of the urinary tract, thyroid cancer, renal cancer, carcinoma, melanoma, head and neck cancer, astrocytomas, ependymal tumors, glioblastoma multiforme, and primitive neuroectodermal tumors.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein administering said stem cells further comprises administering said stem cells in a composition further comprising an additional component selected from the group consisting of a vehicle, an additive, a pharmaceutical adjunct, a therapeutic compound, a carrier, agents useful in the treatment of disease conditions, and combinations thereof.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, further comprising administering a volume of the chemokine SDF-1 to said mammal.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising:

a volume of neural stem cells (NSCs) that exhibits a CXCR4 receptor, demonstrates ~~the demonstrate~~ an affinity for the chemokine SDF-1, or both; and

instructions for the use of said volume of NSCs ~~stem cells~~ in the treatment of a disease condition in a mammal.

35. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 34, wherein said volume of stem cells is ~~are~~ included in a composition that further comprises an additional component selected from the group consisting of a vehicle, an additive, a pharmaceutical

adjunct, a therapeutic compound, a carrier, agents useful in the treatment of disease conditions, and combinations thereof.

36. (Original) The kit of claim 34, wherein the disease condition is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, colon cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, hepatocellular cancer, gastric cancer, pancreatic cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, liver cancer, bladder cancer, cancer of the urinary tract, thyroid cancer, renal cancer, carcinoma, melanoma, head and neck cancer, astrocytomas, ependymal tumors, glioblastoma multiforme, and primitive neuroectodermal tumors.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Original) The kit of claim 34, further comprising a volume of the chemokine SDF-1, and instructions for the use of said volume of the chemokine SDF-1 in the treatment of the disease condition.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~isolated~~ neural stem cell of claim 1, wherein ~~said isolated stem cell is a neural stem cell (NSC) and~~ said NSC exhibits a CXCR4 receptor and demonstrates an affinity for the chemokine SDF-1.

40. (New) The NSC of claim 3, wherein the NSC does not express EAAT1/EAAT2.

41. (Withdrawn-New) The method of claim 15, wherein the NSC does not express EAAT1/EAAT2.

42. (Withdrawn-New) The method of claim 21, wherein the NSC does not express EAAT1/EAAT2.

43. (New) The kit of claim 34, wherein the NSCs exhibit an A2B5 astrocytic precursor marker and do not express EAAT1/EAAT2.